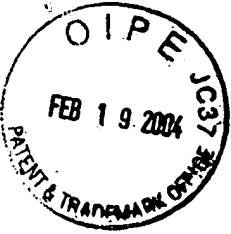


#12 DSS/Bot
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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 2000IP000227



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Neal G. Skinner
Serial No.: 09/932,639
Filed: August 17, 2001
Entitled: MULTIPLEXED DISTRIBUTION OF
OPTICAL POWER
Group Art Unit: 2633
Examiner: R. Sedighian

REC-
FEB 23 2004
TC 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO- SB-08, the Applicant hereby calls the examiner's attention to the following information of which he is aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56:

WO 00/77932

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement after the mailing of a nonfinal Office Action on the merits and more than three months after the application filing date. Accordingly, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure

Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the enclosed reference has been considered in its entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



Marlin R. Smith
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,310

Dated: *Feb. 13, 2004*

660 North Central Expressway
Suite 230
Plano, Texas 75074
(972) 516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on FEBRUARY 13, 2004
Shena Jafko